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REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted prior to the issuance of a first Office Action and simultaneously with the filing of the present application.

With this amendment applicants have amended the specification, cancelled claims 1 to 8 and added new claims 9 to 19, all in an effort to place the application in better condition for examination.

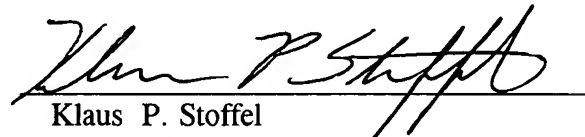
Favorable action on the present application is respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with the application may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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In the Specification:

Page 1, starting at line 2:

The invention pertains to a process for detecting the state of a catalyst system in an exhaust gas channel of an internal combustion engine of a motor vehicle [with the features cited in the introductory clause of Claim 1].

Page 2, starting at line 16:

This task is accomplished according to the invention by the process for detecting the state of the catalyst system [with the features cited in Claim 1. In] in that:

- (a) at least one operating parameter of the catalyst system is detected over a predetermined time period;
- (b) the total energy output of the internal combustion engine within the predetermined time period is determined; and
- (c) a characteristic value k is calculated on the basis of a ratio of the at least one operating parameter to the total energy output[.,].

[it] It is thus possible in an advantageous manner to take into account the dynamic behavior of the engine with respect to the emission of pollutants.

Page 3, starting at line 19:

In a preferred embodiment of the process, the state of the catalyst system is detected within an acceleration phase of the motor vehicle. In addition, the detection of the state can also be made to depend on whether or not the operating mode of the internal combustion engine is within a predetermined lambda region or on whether the catalyst temperature is in a predetermined temperature range.

the paragraph starting at line 27:

The invention is explained in greater detail below on the basis of the associated drawings:

— Figure 1 is a schematic diagram of a catalyst system installation in an exhaust gas channel of an internal combustion engine; and

— Figure 2 [show] shows a flow diagram of the detection of the state of the catalyst system according to an exemplary embodiment of the process according to the invention.